

Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

Newsletter to Members 2011 FALL.....ISSUE #4/4 30th Anniversary 1980-2010

The mission of the Ames Historical Society is to preserve local history and illuminate its stories.



Alan Spohnheimer, center, demonstrates on the Society's website how to find records of WW2 service personnel. Left is Margaret Vance and right is Don Konrady.

Ames Historical Society Board:

President Peggy Baer
Vice-President Mary Atherly
Secretary Sharon Wirth
Treasurer Ken Cameron

Board Members:

Bob Bourne, Jan Breitman, Matthew Donovan, Eleanor Ostendorf, Carol Phillips, Mike Quinn, Meg Speer, Lynette Spicer, Rollie Struss, Willie Struss, Kathy Svec
The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at City Hall at 6:45pm. Members welcome!

Administrator Alan Spohnheimer
Staff Carolyn Larson, Dennis Wendell Margaret Vance
Facility Manager Vacant; seeking volunteer

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in local and state history through publications, programs, exhibitions and operation of an archive and historic site.

Headqtrs: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010
Open Wed-Fri, 1-5pm
Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515-232- 2148
E-mail: mail@ameshistoricalsociety.org
Website: www.AmesHistoricalSociety.org

The newsletter is published four times a year for A. H. S. members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above.

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. Open April 1 through October 31.

Incredible Resource Now Available Online! Story County World War II Service Personnel Records



Ralph (Pete) Miller,
Army, in the Philippines

When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941 the United States was drawn into the second World War. Over the next four years this event touched nearly every family in the country. Patriotism ran high and men and women joined or were drafted into military service in great numbers.

More than 16 million Americans served in the military; of those, over 260,000 men and 4,000 women were lowans.

The Story County WWII Service Personnel Master Index is a listing of 5,297 individuals from Story County who stepped forward to fight for freedom. The index is

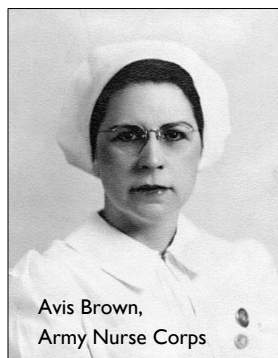
based on records originally compiled by staff and volunteers of the Ames Public Library during the war years. Unveiling of the Society's online version of this information coincided with Veterans Day 2011.

The project to convert the paper records to digital form for sharing on our website was funded by a \$4,434 Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP) grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa, with matching gifts provided by Erb Hunziker and Anita Wald-Tuttle.

The two-year grant was awarded in 2009 and entailed over 650 hours of volunteer time. Sharing this material will allow the sacrifices of these brave men, women and their families to be remembered.

Four different sources were combined to provide information:

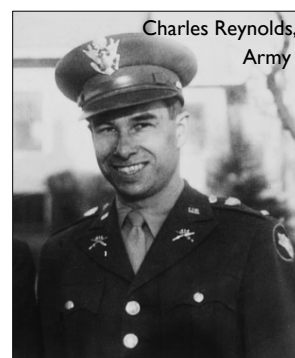
- **3x5" Card File:** 8,100 cards list summary information (name, hometown, relatives, place of training, branch of service, assignments, awards, etc.). Some individuals require as many as three cards; others contain only a name and branch of service. Occasionally there is a service serial number.
- **Scrapbooks:** 26 three-ring binders contain about 2,600 names with accompanying newspaper clippings and some photos (the card file and scrapbooks didn't always contain the same information)
- **5x8" Card File:** represents 152 names
- **Album in wooden covers titled "Service Flag":** contains pages representing 155 names with clippings and photos.



Avis Brown,
Army Nurse Corps

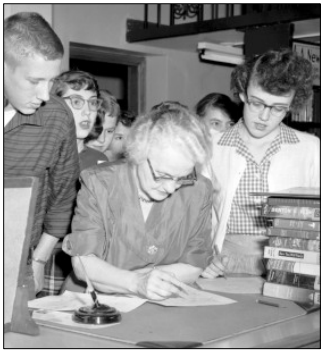


James Cue,
Coast Guard



Charles Reynolds,
Army

Ames Public Library Contribution



Letha Davidson, Director of the Ames Public Library, 1929-63, initiated the "Soldier Record Project" in the early 1940s to document the men and women of Story County in military service. With great foresight, she recognized the importance to future generations of creating of a lasting record of these individuals.

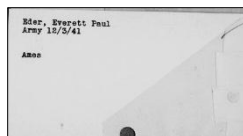
The project employed library staff and volunteers to clip articles in the two Ames newspapers (*Ames Daily Tribune* and the *Milepost*) about local residents and Iowa State College ROTC students entering the armed services. The War Department supplied local papers with news releases about entry into service, leaves, assignments, transfers, injuries, deaths, etc. Inclusion was based on the "home of record" for these individuals, referring to the place one was living when entering or re-enlisting in the military.

Funding from organizations such as the Red Cross, American Legion, Kiwanis, Lions and Elks Clubs helped finance supplies and staff salaries.

Volunteers searched newspapers and clipped articles, dated and pasted them onto heavy-weight pages, hand-lettered names and filed finished pages into notebook binders. Summary information was typed on 3x5 cards and a "Service Flag" album was created.

For over 60 years, these resources were preserved in the basement "Iowa Room" of the Ames Public Library where reference librarians provided assisted searches.

For many years, Susan North, a now-retired reference librarian, recognized the importance of preserving the information on the 3x5 cards. In 2005, she recruited volunteer Wayne Beal, who, often assisted by his wife Anita, began a massive scanning project that took almost two years.



In 2007, the Library began to transfer local history resources and research materials collected by historian Farwell Brown to the Ames Historical Society. At the urging of now-retired reference librarian, Janet Klaas, the World War II collections were also transferred.

Ames Historical Society Contribution

Upon receiving the WWII collections, it became apparent to Society curator, Dennis Wendell that the fragile notebook pages would not survive heavy usage, and would fade with repeated photocopying.

A grant was submitted to the State Historical Society for funding to preserve this valuable resource. Initially, materials were to be micro-filmed but it evolved into a digitization project to allow for wider public access via our website. An interim index was created by Janet Klaas and Anita Beal to list types of source material available for each service person.

Alan Spohnheimer, computer technician-webmaster-administrator, mastered the intricacies of merging the digital 3x5 card files previously done by the Beals with first-time scanning of the scrapbooks, Service Flag album and 5x8 cards. Proofreading was the final step.

These individuals deserve thanks and praise for supporting and accomplishing this project consuming over 650 hours: Peggy Baer, Shannon Bardole, Anita Beal, Wayne Beal, Breann Hunter (project manager), Barbara Budd, Kathy Coronas, Janet Klaas, Ben Kocher, Carolyn Larson, Michelle Paulus, Mike Schuster, Alan Spohnheimer, Linda Vogtlin, Winston Turnage, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell.

How To Find the Index

Go to www.AmesHistoricalSociety.org and follow the link from the homepage: "Index to Story County WWII Veterans". Prepare to be moved by touching stories!

July 13, 2010

Dear People, I just finished re-reading your Winter 2009 newsletter. The article on the Story County World War II Collection grabbed me!

In the early 40's, Letha Davidson started the Library Aide Training Course and Phyllis Thompson (Harris) and I were in that class. My last year at AHS (1944 - 45) I worked half-time at the library and my task was to take stacks of saved newspapers and clip out all the notices regarding service people and paste them in the scrapbooks (also recording them in a card file). If there were extended stories I sometimes would call the family involved for an update and make a note of that.

I later wondered whatever happened to those scrapbooks. I'll be anxious to see them on the website as I know my memory will be jogged by some of the classmates who enlisted and didn't return.

Sincerely, Anita (Ohlsen) Wald-Tuttle
(above: senior portrait, 1945)

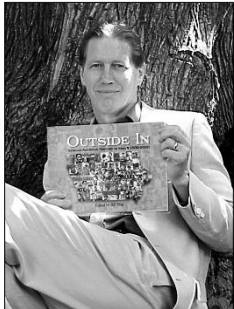


2012 Ames Historical Society Lecture Series



All lectures will be at Ames City Auditorium, 520 Sixth Street, Ames, Iowa.

A \$2 freewill donation is requested at the door to assist with auditorium rental.

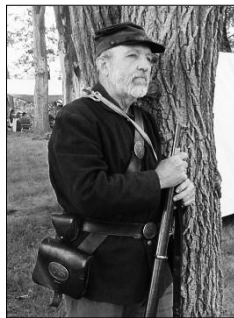


Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 7pm

Outside In: African-American History in Iowa

by Hal Chase, African-American & Iowa History, Des Moines Area Comm. College

Dr. Chase's presentation begins with a stirring 17-minute audio-visual survey of important people, organizations and events in Iowa's African-American history - from its territorial beginning in 1838 to the present. He'll touch on key Ames people and their contributions and then leave time for questions and comments. Chase continually seeks additional Iowa African-American stories. He encourages audience members to share their stories, scrapbooks and family albums for the enrichment of local history. Chase contributed a chapter and coordinated the publication of the comprehensive book *Outside In: African-American History in Iowa, 1838-2000*. Local historians David Gradwohl, Nancy Osborn Johnson, Bill Silag, Shellie Orngard and Dorothy Schwieder will be present to lend their expertise.



Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 7pm

Iowa in the Civil War

by O.J. Fargo, Green Valley Education Agency (retired), Creston

During the sesquicentennial observance of the Civil War, we bring you O.J. Fargo's presentation that details Iowa's involvement from Ft. Sumter to the surrender at Appomattox. Although Fargo focuses on the everyday experiences of a soldier in the field, he also describes the situation on the home front and politics of the era. He'll bring the roster of Iowa soldiers who served, and interested researchers can look up those from Story County. Fargo has authored two books on Iowa history and a book on the everyday life of a Civil War soldier among many other publications. He is also president of an Iowa regiment of Civil War Re-enactors and will appear in uniform.



Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 7pm

Trains Across Iowa

by Rudolph Daniels, Chair of Railroad Operations Technology and Railroad History at Western Iowa Tech Community College, Sioux City

All aboard for an Iowa rail adventure! In a vintage conductor's uniform, Rudy Daniels paints a vivid picture of the past, present and future of the Hawkeye State's railroads. Learn about Iowa's unique position in the construction of the first transcontinental railroad and the state's great contribution to railroad safety. Daniels will also describe the famous streamliners that rode Iowa's rails. Dr. Daniels has written the official history of US railroads, *Trains Across the Continent*. This lecture is an introduction to the Society's exhibit, *Rail Reality: How the Trains Made Ames*, June-September 2012 at the Octagon Center for the Arts.



Tuesday, April 24, 2012, 7pm

From Small Town to the Big Top: the Leininger Sisters Join the Circus

by Zellettia Leininger Streit, moderated by Dennis Wendell

The circus is coming to town! Well, not exactly, but Zellettia Leininger, who performed along with her sister Medeia during the golden age of the big-tops, will talk about her fascinating life. Zee debuted at age three on the stage at Lake Comar, sang and danced as part of the "Leininger Show Troupe" and in the 1930s, appeared before circus audiences in central Iowa and nearby states. She trained as a toe tap dancer, vocalist, ventriloquist and acrobat and later performed on the trapeze and tight wire, rode elephants and did bareback riding. Leininger will share recollections and photos of her early years in Ames learning and teaching dance, entertaining in small circuses and finally touring with the Ringling Brothers.

The Lecture Series is open to the public. Mark your calendars now!

www.AmesHistoricalSociety.org; 515-232-2148

Jan., Feb., & Mar. programs funded by Humanities Iowa, a private, non-profit state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and in part by a grant from the Iowa Dept. of Cultural Affairs' Community Cultural Grant program.

Society News

Willie & Rollie Struss Honored

The Story County Alliance for Philanthropy annually organizes a Philanthropy Day observance to recognize all that has been accomplished in our county in the name of charitable giving.



Each year, individuals, businesses and organizations that provide essential services to county residents are

honored. One of the five award categories is "Outstanding Individual Volunteer Fundraisers." The Society's Legacy Ames capital campaign co-chairs, Willie and Rollie Struss, were selected to receive this year's honor on November 17.

The nomination stated, in part, "The Ames Historical Society would not be where it is today without the generosity and dedication of Willie and Rollie Struss. It's people like the Strusses that make a community special. We are lucky to have them in Ames."

The Struss's leadership role in the Building Fund Campaign made all the difference – and today, the Society owns the first building dedicated to local history since the founding of Ames in 1864! Willie and Rollie's daughter, Colleen, surprised them by coming from Washington DC for the event. As they said, "The whole day was splendid" – and indeed it was!

SCCF Provides Technology Grant



The Society was very pleased to receive an \$1,829 Story County Community Foundation grant to upgrade technology at our headquarters. These upgrades have made a tremendous difference:

- A new PC with video editing capability
- A PC upgrade to replace an out-of-date machine (right – Carolyn Larson)
- A wireless card for a PC to provide internet access
- The PastPerfect Photo Module was purchased so images can be placed in our collection database
- Light Scribe software was installed on two machines
- Our HP 4500 color printer was repaired (above – Alan S.)
- Updated Microsoft Office was installed on one PC



Good News - Bad News

by Willie Struss, "Did You Know..." Project co-chair

First the Good News: The "Did You Know..." oral history project has been such a success that we are in need of more help! Doing what, you may ask? The project involves interviewing Ames area residents who have interesting tales to tell about early Ames and their own special lives. To date, seven lecture presentations and twenty-two personal interviews have been recorded on DVD and four individuals interviewed on audio tape. Several VHS tapes recorded by Farwell Brown have been converted to DVDs.

Now the Bad News: We can't keep up and need help with recording and/or editing future stories. Training will be provided and is not complicated or time consuming. Interested? Call 515-232-0865.

Shorts

- On the first and third Mondays of each month on KASI radio, 1430 AM, Mel Crippen hosts the Society on "Mel in the Morning." The interviews usually occur between 8:15 am and 8:30 am, and include a variety of topics. Listen in!
- *Hold the date:* Sat., March 3, 2012, 10am for the Annual Meeting of the membership and the celebration for completing the building purchase.

Society Part of Festival of Trees



Research Assistant, Margaret Vance provided the creativity behind the Society's Festival of Trees display.

The lighted 4-foot tree featured "Ames Icons" – ornaments with photos of key historical Ames places and people, cleverly framed in canning jar rings!



This note came from Ames resident, Vickie Setterberg, "Thank you so much for your tree entry this year! We Ames-ites really appreciated the nostalgia and several children also commented on enjoying the vintage photo-graphs. Thanks for your time and creativity!"

The Festival of Trees - featuring over 60 trees - was on display from November 19 to December 4 in the third floor gallery of the Octagon Center for the Arts in downtown Ames.

Society News

New Board Members needed!

It's time to identify potential new board members - and this presents an opportunity for Society members to become more involved!

The Ames Historical Society board has 15 members with three-year terms. Board meetings are held on the second Thursday night of each month at 6:45 PM. Each board member also serves on a committee, such as budget, membership or Hoggatt School to accomplish much of the Society's work.

What does it mean to be a board member of Ames Historical Society? The board, in concert with the Society's employees, is responsible for the future direction of the Society. What are the goals for the coming year, and how should the Society spend its revenues? What is the long-term vision and how do we get there?

Current Society members have the passion for local history! Please consider bringing your interest and enthusiasm to the Board of Directors. A slate of candidates will be finalized by early February.

Please contact one of the following board members for questions or to indicate interest:

Mary Atherly: almaryatherly@msn.com,

Lynette Spicer: lynette.spicer@gmail.com

Jan Breitman: jan.breitman@gmail.com

Peggy Baer: pbaer@mchsi.com

or use: mail@ameshistoricalsociety.org.

What We're Doing About Space

In the last newsletter, we let members know that a notice-to-vacate was received in July from the tenant that occupies the north half of the first floor in our building at 416 Douglas.

The Board made the decision to rent a portion of the space and retain part for our own uses. This will provide needed cash-flow as well as needed space for Society operations. Our goal is to increase other resources so that we can occupy the entire space with our own activities and programs.

Sale of Home = Final Payment!



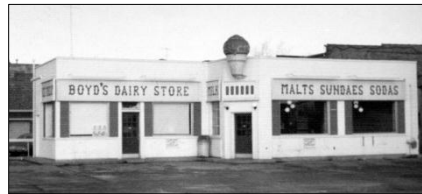
The proceeds from the sale of the Bert and Mary Adams home in July will allow the Society to make the final

contract payment on our building just after the first of the year. A celebration is being planned and will be in conjunction with the March 3, 2012 Annual Meeting!

We Get Mail!

Memories of Boyd's

This note was received about Boyd's Dairy, featured in the last newsletter: "In 1948 my husband, Gus, was working for Frederick's Construction as a carpenter. He was laid off when winter came. With 3 small children, he really needed a job. He was hired by Boyd's Dairy.



Boyd's made a chocolate cake and ice cream roll at the time, and to make each roll the right size, the ends

were trimmed. One day Gus came home with a can of the trimmings--what a treat! Boyd's helped us make it through the winter. Although the girls were 2 and 3 years old, they swear they remember these cake and ice cream ends!" Jackie O'Donnell, Slater, Iowa

From Linda Boyd Bravard, came this clarification: "...about the 'Kokinakis' question. Kokinakis was the name of a Boone family that had a Greek coney restaurant in Boone in the '40s - 50's. Their recipe was legendary (like Boyd's ice cream). After Boyd's ceased bottling milk, we added things like the cheese trays and gourmet coffees. The Kokinakis family was gracious in giving us their chili recipe that we served for lunch."

Linda added this correction, "Giles Fowler was not one of the small boys pictured in the old newspaper article, but rather the journalist who wrote the article. But he may very well appreciate you making him a few years younger! Thanks for bringing Boyd's back to life for a short period of time!"

Fair Store Remembered

This note was received after the Ames High Class of 1966 45th Reunion, "I have to admit I do not remember details like some of our classmates - I can't place Tilden's [Store] at all but was sure The Fair Store was [at 203 Main] in the spot where Antique Ames is - just not that large. The Fair Store had a basement and main floor and a "balcony" to the back that looked over the first floor. That is where I worked as bookkeeper after school and on Saturdays through high school. The Fair Store was owned by Mr. Denny who was in his late 80's. His daughter ran another store in Perry where the major book work was done, but I handled the accounts receivable and think I did payroll, too. There were three full time clerks and one part time. I think most of them were drawing social security!"

Linda Franz Hedden, Class of 1966

We'd love to get other memories of the Fair Store! Write or e-mail to the addresses on page one.

End of the Year Appeal

We Depend on You!

Members have by now received our annual end-of-the-year appeal letter. We hope you have been inspired by all the Society has accomplished this past year and will consider how far your dollars go in this organization!



We are so grateful for your membership and for the additional donations that allow us to enrich the cultural life of the community. This year's appeal will provide support for day-to-day operations that have such an impact on residents of all ages. We hope you'll remember us at this time of the year!

We continue to accept funds to match the Endowment Challenge Grant we received from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. For every \$3 you contribute, an additional \$1 is earned from the Challenge Grant (up to \$10,000)!

Of the \$30,000 needed to meet the Challenge, \$6,500 has been raised – nearly 22%.

Don't forget that donations can be made to AHS with:

- Tangible assets such as cash, corn in a bin or real estate property
- Transfers of appreciated stock
- IRA rollovers of up to \$100,000 if you are over 70 ½ ** (see below)
- Memorial gifts in honor of a loved one or community member
- Bequests from your estate
- Gifts resulting from being a beneficiary of a retirement account or insurance policy

Donations to the Challenge may be made using the form on page 8. They must be sent directly to the Story County Community Foundation. For more information please contact Suzy Shierholz, (515-232-9200).

**** Charitable Gifts from your IRA**

The December 2010 Federal Tax Act, scheduled to expire Dec. 31, 2010, has been extended for the entire year of 2011. This act enables charitable donors to make tax-free gifts from their IRA'S if the donors are over 70 ½. Donors may exclude from their taxable income any IRA funds up to \$100,000 that have been transferred directly from their IRA to a qualified charity. There may be possible tax benefits to you even if you do not itemize your tax deductions. The transfer may count against your unsatisfied required minimum distribution from your IRA. Please consult your financial advisor or attorney.

Museum Shop

NEW! Ames Historic Old Town Walking Tour guide in full color – just \$1.00!



Also:

Publications from the C&NW Historical Society.

Ames Main Street Walking Tour Guide - \$1.00

Rare, out-of-print books on individuals
and events in local history.
...and more....

Upcoming Train Exhibit

A special exhibition is planned in 2012 about the impact of the railroad on the development of Ames.

Titled, "Rail Reality: How the Trains Made Ames," the show will open in June 2012 in three galleries at the Octagon Center for the Arts, 417 Douglas, Ames.

The exhibit will include:

- a historical perspective in specific key time periods
- a one-man show of pastel drawings by train artist Stewart Buck, formerly of Ames
- models of the "Dinkey" and the original Ames train yards south of Main Street

If our members have railroad-related artifacts they would be willing to loan for this exhibit, please e-mail us at mail@ameshistoricalsociety.org or call 515-232-2148.



Headquarters Happenings @ 416 Douglas

We Have Visitors!



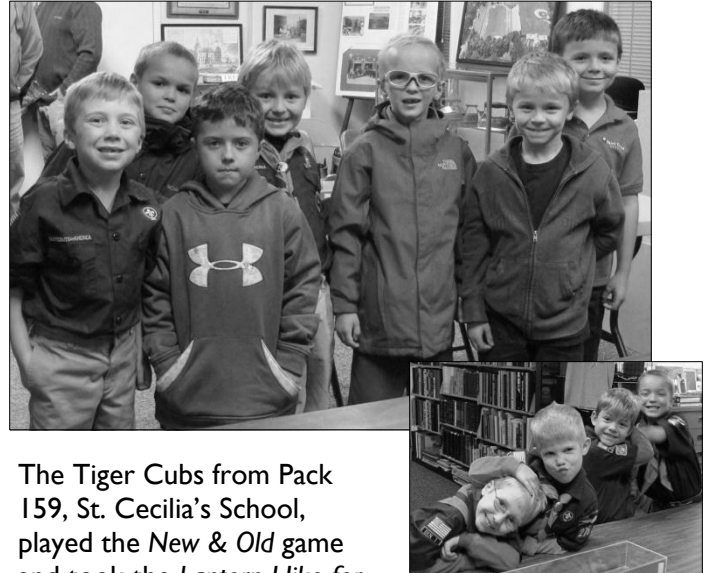
Cynthia Duff Questers have disbanded and visited in November to donate their records to the Society.



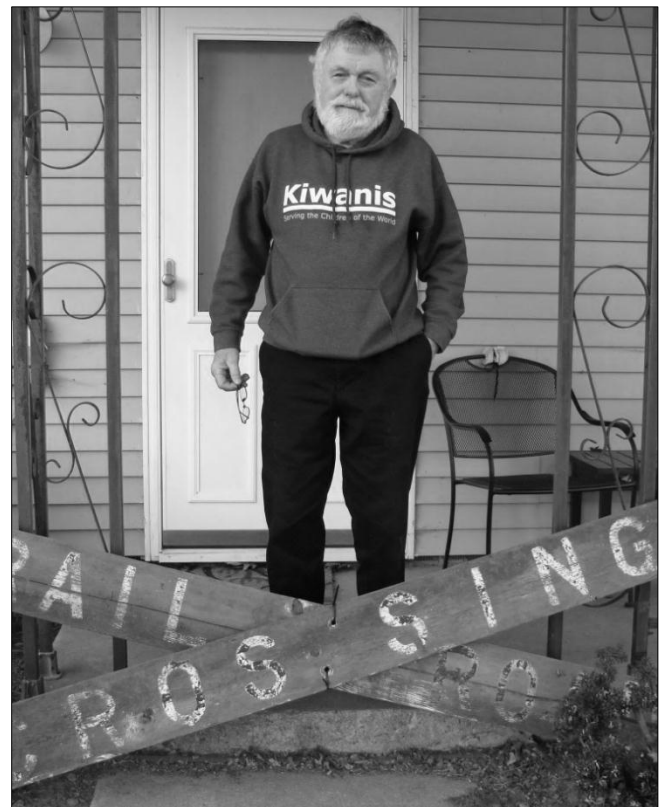
Diane Bullock's 3rd grade class at Meeker Elementary School in Ames hosted Society Curator, Dennis Wendell during their local history unit. He presented many artifacts relating to early Ames and life 100 years ago and is seen showing a portion of Thelma Miller's button collection to eager third graders.



Here is the Youth Leadership Ames group from Ames and Gilbert High Schools, visiting to hear about our community's origins.



The Tiger Cubs from Pack 159, St. Cecilia's School, played the *New & Old* game and took the *Lantern Hike for Local History*. Both the cub scouts and the 3rd graders bring enormous enthusiasm to our presentations! We always feel very energized by the time we are finished.



Ray Callahan donated his Fort Dodge, Des Moines & Southern Railroad crossing sign to the Society's collection. The Society has collected a number of signs from past businesses – sometimes, hauling scaffolding to a site to reach and remove important markers of our city's history. We appreciate it when signs just walk in the door!



In October, the staff and board president attended the Iowa Museum Association annual conference at the State Historical Building in Des Moines. These conferences are an excellent way to meet other museum professionals and catch up on new ideas and developments in the field. Pictured are (l to R): Peggy Baer, Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell and Carolyn Larson. The Iowa Museum Association serves both its museum members and the general public. Their website provides a wealth of museum information at www.iowamuseums.org.

WATCH FOR the Ames Public Library's Jan.-May series on the Civil War: programs & book discussions.

Yes! I'd like to contribute to the Endowment Challenge!

For every \$3 you contribute, an additional \$1 is earned from the Challenge Grant (up to \$10,000).

Amount _____

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to:
Story County Community Foundation, PO Box 1666,
Ames, IA 50010

Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label for information about your membership. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, allowing us to continue to be a valued community resource. We thank you

Introductory - 1st year	\$10	Sustaining	\$100
Individual	\$25	Sustaining Plus	\$101-500
Family	\$40	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000

Name _____

Address _____

Ames Historical Society. PO Box 821. Ames. IA 50010

Return Service Requested

Ames Historical Society
 PO Box 821
 Ames, Iowa 50010

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT #122
 AMES, IOWA 50010